

Issue No. 314

# *Bottles* *Along the* *Mohawk*



June 2020

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

## **OUR JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING - PICNIC IS CANCELED**

**HOPEFULLY, SOMETIME SOON  
WE CAN BEGIN OUR MEETINGS AGAIN**



**ABOVE: PHOTO FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

*Read Inside: A visit to the Puckhaber's*  
*By Jeff Ullman*

# President's Message...



Greetings All,

It looks like this whole virus thing is starting to calm down some now. However, we all still need to be careful with what we are doing. I was asked about having a picnic in July. I have mixed feeling on this myself as I don't want to say, yes let's do it and then have one person get sick because of that decision. We will be outside and that should be safer yet we will be very close to each other for sure. I too miss being together as a group and I am sure we all have stories to share. As I am sure you all know almost every show has been canceled including the FOHBC 2020 National show. We have to be safe as a group and not just worry about ourselves. I am not worried about me personally as I rarely get sick and have a strong body. I really think we should hold off a few more months and see what happens before we get together. If we decided to have a meeting later this year maybe in August or something when it is still warm maybe then we can do it outside or something. However if as a group you would like to offer a gathering, I am fine with that. I just don't want to say do it myself. Please contact Fred DeCarlo, Debra Rehm or Peter Bleiberg if you feel we should have a picnic in July and the four of us can decide what to do. I hope everyone is safe and getting outside as much as you can. My doctor tells me the sun is the best remedy for anything.



*Take Care,  
Jim Bender*

## COMMITTEES: Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club

**FACILITIES:** Ron Weir, P. O. 509, Oriskany, NY 13424, Phone: (315) 736-8138

**HISTORIAN:** Kevin Gallagher, 6073 Stokes-Lee Road, Lee Center, NY 13363, (315) 339-2598, Email: kgallagher4@twcnny.rr.com

**LIBRARIAN:** Tom Andriach, 100 E. Sycamore Street, Rome, NY 13440, (315) 339 -4338

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Jon Landers, 8646 Aitken Ave, Whitesboro, NY 13492, Phone: 864-3541

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Polly Blunk, 2317 Holman City Road, Clayville, NY 13322, Phone (315) 839-5548, Email: PBlunk2317@gmail.com

**PROGRAMS:** Ron Weir, P. O. 509, Oriskany, NY 13424, Phone: (315) 736-8138

**MONTHLY RAFFLES:** Tom Andriach, 100 E. Sycamore Street, Rome, NY 13440, (315) 339 – 4338, Email: [lostinspace47@outlook.com](mailto:lostinspace47@outlook.com)

**REFRESHMENTS:** Debra Rehm, 5182 Westmoreland Rd, Whitesboro, NY 13492, (315) 736-4705 Email: longale@roadrunner.com

**REFRESHMENTS LIST:** Dr. Herbert Zipp, 43 Bermuda Rd, Whitesboro, NY 13492, (315) 732-8766 Email: dr.herbertandcarol@gmail.com

**SHOW & SALE:** Peter Bleiberg, 7 White Pine Road, New Hartford, N.Y. 13413, Phone: (315) 735-5430 Email: PMBleiberg@aol.com

**SUNSHINE PERSON:** Kathy Capozzella: 1108 Rutger Street, Utica, NY 13501 or phone (315) 724-1026, Email: [fcapozzella@hotmail.com](mailto:fcapozzella@hotmail.com)



Visit us on Facebook – Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club



**ON THE FRONT PAGE**

This is another photo that was copied from our Facebook Page on the internet. Go to Facebook and then type in: mohawk valley bottle club to get on our Facebook page. We get a lot of traffic on our Facebook Page. Member Tom Andriach maintains our site. THANKS TOM FOR DOING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

**MORE ABOUT OUR BOTTLE SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS**

Even though our show is canceled we can still have our bottle raffle. Raffle tickets for our raffle bottle were handed out at the March meeting (see photo of raffle bottle on page 8). People who were not at the meeting will have tickets mailed to them. Please try to sell them, they are our Clubs' largest fund raiser. We will have a drawing for the bottle sometime this fall. **THANK YOU!**

**CLUB MEMBER RECUPERATING**

Member Polly Blunk of Clayville is recuperating from knee surgery. She is actually pretty well over it and is back mowing her lawn on her rider mower. **WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE DOING BETTER POLLY!**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Scott & Loring Hastings and their sons Cody, Taylor and Andrew of Whitesboro are our newest members. Scott is a bottle digger and does metal detecting. Although Scott hasn't been doing it, quite a year yet, he is enjoying his new hobbies. Scott is a good friend of member Fred DeCarlo. **WELCOME TO OUR CLUB SCOTT, LORI, CODY, TAYLOR AND ANDREW. HOPE TO MEET YOU ALL AT A MEETING VERY SOON!**

**REFRESHMENTS**

Dates to be announced

**STILLMAN'S**  
**American Balsam.**

An Invaluable Remedy for Burns, Cuts,  
Bruises, Sprains, Rheumatism, Neuralgia,  
Piles, Ague in the Breast, Earache,  
all Throat and Lung Difficulties,  
&c., &c.

This Balsam has been manufactured and sold for fifty years, but within a few years past it has been subjected to repeated experiments, and by changing the proportion of the ingredients and adding others, we now have a Balsam which we Challenge the World to Equal.

We have yet to learn of a single instance where it has failed to give entire satisfaction, and the many endorsements we receive prove it to be an unparalleled success.

The Healing and Curative properties of this Balsam is universally admitted by Physicians and Druggists, and we conscientiously recommend it as meeting the wants of every household.

We could give you a long list of names of those who have used it for many years, and are never without it in the family, but we believe a trial of it would more surely convince you of its value. Keep a bottle close at hand for immediate use when required.

For Piles, Blind and Bleeding, this Balsam has been known to cure when all other remedies had failed.

For Ague in the Breast the effect is magical. It is worth ten times its cost for Burns alone.

For Burns, Cuts, Bruises, Sprains, &c. apply quickly and freely.

Early advertisement for  
**STILLMAN'S AMERICAN BALSAM**

**WHAT BOTTLE?**  
**THIS IS OUR HISTORY**  
Answer to last month's question.

Stillman's American Balsam was manufactured in Central New York; exactly where was the establishment that made this elixir located?

**Answer:** West Edmeston - see photo of advertisement at left. Like many early medicines they claimed to cure numerous ailments. Has anyone ever seen a bottle from this remedy?



## WHAT IS A SARATOGA-TYPE MINERAL WATER BOTTLE?

Some people new to the bottle collecting hobby may not know what a Saratoga-type mineral water bottle is. Saratoga-type mineral water bottle collectors have their own club which is appropriately named, "The Saratoga-type Bottle Collectors Association. The club was started in 1981 by the late Bernie Puckhaber of Ballston Spa, NY. Bernie was instrumental in getting the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, NY started and was author of the book *Saratogas*. Bernie and his beautiful wife Jean were from Ballston Spa.

In Bernie's book, he defined a Saratoga-type bottle as: "As an antique bottle which was manufactured between 1823 - 1889 and sold to bottling firms for their use as containers for the distribution and sale of naturally carbonated mineral waters. These bottles were first produced for the spring water bottling works in Saratoga Springs. Subsequently, mineral water bottling companies around the US adopted the use of this distinctively shaped bottle for the commercial distribution of their spring waters and in a few instances this shaped bottle was also used for beverages other than spring water. Most Saratoga-type bottles have an applied double collared lip. A tapered cork was inserted in the neck and a wire was wrapped around the top of the cork and the double collared neck to secure it."

Saratoga Springs, NY and Ballston Spa, NY has about 30 springs and most of them were bottled in earlier years in Saratoga-type mineral water bottles. The Congress Spring in Saratoga Springs is probably the most famous spring in America. Not many areas have as many springs as the Saratoga Springs area.

Other springs in Central New York also had their waters bottled and sold in the Saratoga-type bottles. The Richfield Springs, Sharon Springs, Chittenango Springs, Gloversville and several springs in Syracuse were some of those springs.

Most of the water bottled today is tap water and is a huge business dominated by large companies like Pepsi and Coca Cola. In Saratoga Springs, Vichy Spring water is still bottled and sold in beautiful cobalt blue bottles. Read the great article on the next two pages about a Saratoga mineral water bottle collection.



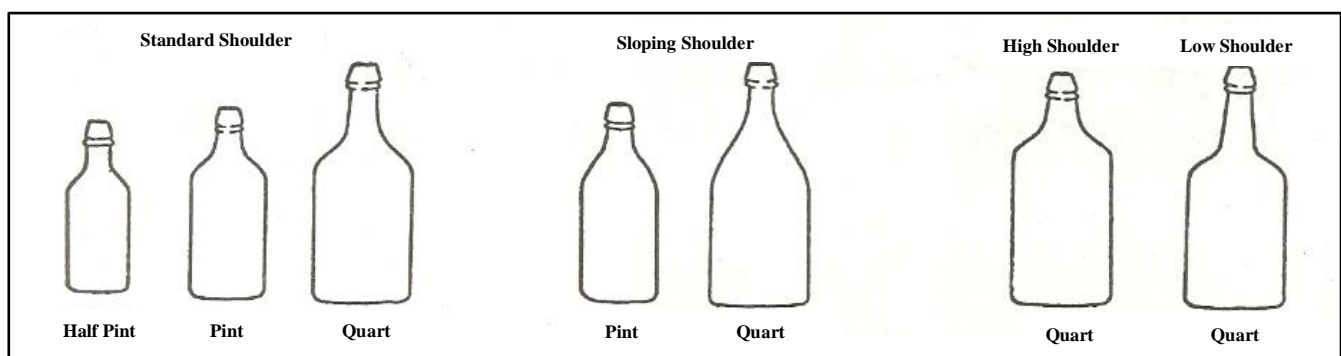
Two aqua pint Saratoga-type mineral water bottles



A beautiful cobalt-blue modern Saratoga water bottle



Photo of the late Bernie and Jean Puckhaber



Above: Drawing of sizes and shapes from Bernie Puckhaber's book *Saratogas*





## A VISIT TO THE PUCKHABER'S

By Jeff Ulman

Back in December, Jim Bender & I took a couple days for a road trip to visit a couple of our good friends and look at some great collections. One of the stops we made was to Concord, NH and the home of Bob and Diane Puckhaber.

Bob has one of the top Saratoga type mineral water collections in the country. His family has been well known collectors and educators of these bottles since back into the 1960's and maybe even before that. Bob's parents, Bernie and Jean Puckhaber were both well known in the hobby. They were the driving force behind the formation of the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, NY as well as authors of two books on "Saratogas". Bernie wrote the first edition of their books in 1976 and Jean published an updated version in 1993. Sadly, both are no longer with us, but the passion of the history and preservation of these spring water bottles is still alive and well with Bob.

Neither Jim nor I had ever had the privilege to see the Puckhaber collection while Bob's parents were around and to be honest, I didn't know what to expect. I knew a few of the bottles that Bob had talked about and brought to our SBCS meetings (and these were killer examples) but beyond these few I had no clue. Well, let's just say we were amazed and astonished to say the least!

The drive up from NY was easy. We left early so we could stop at some of the few antique shops left on the Rt. 7 and Rt. 9 corridor. There used to be so many neat little shops years ago but not anymore. We did manage to find a few and had a nice trip. We were all prepared to find a hotel for the night, but Bob would not hear of this and insisted we stay with them.



(continued on next page)

We arrived late afternoon, Bob met us at his house. They have a beautiful old home right in Concord. It was meticulously maintained with just the right mix of antique charm and modern conveniences, and to top it off, because it was early December, the house was beautifully decorated for Christmas! Bob took us right in for the tour which of course ended up in the bottle room.

The bottle room is really a family room or entertainment room. It features three walls of windows for great natural light, two large backlit cabinets full of Saratogas and a unique sunken bar. It took a while for me to notice all the details because as bottle collectors, the bottles dominated the room!

As I stated above, this is a second-generation collection. There are many pieces in this collection that have taken years (or lifetimes) to acquire. Several extremely rare examples that collectors, even 40+ year collectors like Jim and myself, have never seen in person. For example, the N35 “Frot (Fort) Edward Mineral Spring Water”. This is the only known example to my knowledge. The S-44c half pint “Pavilion & US Spring Co.”, the Extremely rare S-49 “San Souci Spouting Spring”, an amber Champion Spring, an emerald green Vichy ½ pint (the only one I know of in that color) and the list went on and on.

He had several shades and variants of the early Clarke bottles. John Clarke, Clarke & Co., pint and quart Lynch and Clarke. Almost all the coveted aqua rarities to include the Triton, Aetna and Glacier Spring. It was truly an amazing grouping. Rarity aside, one bottle stood out to both Jim and I as we were going shelf to shelf. It was a high shoulder John Clarke, three piece mold in the most gorgeous amber color. Now John Clarke bottles themselves are not super rare, but how many do you know of in a straight amber? I have seen a couple, but this one must be the best. Crude and bold, it even had a huge piece of slag embedded in the body.

So, as we are having a drink and talking bottles, Diane tells us dinner is ready. She and Bob had set up a delicious roasted chicken dinner for all of us! I can’t say enough about what great hosts they were. After dinner, we headed back to the bottle room for a bit. In this room there were well over 100 Saratogas and it takes time to really look it all over. Bob then says to us, “well, are you guys ready to go see the other half of the collection?”, WHAT?? There’s more? “Oh yes, the other half is in my office down the street.” Bob and Diane have a private law business in Concord. The office was only about a 2-minute drive away.

Off we go..... Let me say, the second act didn’t disappoint either! Bob’s private office had additional shelving and back lit cabinets with even more great Saratogas, and many go with pieces he and his parents had acquired over the years. The highlights here were (in no particular order), both pint and quart Round Lake Mineral Waters, two gorgeous and distinctly different colored M-20 Hanbury Smith “NY” Congress Water pints, Sharon Springs, Syracuse Springs, Deep Rock Springs and one of my favorite molds, the S-30 Spouting Geyser Spring pint. Once again, the list could go on and on. There was a beautiful “Saratoga” shoulder embossed salt jar and an incredible whimsey flip hat made from a quart Congress & Empire bottle! Several pieces of “Congressville” glass were sprinkled in just for good measure. We sat there and talked again for well over an hour.

I have included several photos within this article, but none really do the collection justice. Bernie and Jean would be very proud Bob, to see the passion you still have in these bottles. This was a great visit with good friends. Great hospitality, great food and drink and great bottles to see and talk about. These days it seems like we live behind screens way too much. We need to get out there and just visit people when we get a chance. I know my door is always open to anyone interested and I really want to thank Bob & Diane for opening their door up to us!



**Editor's note:** Jeff is a member of our Mohawk Valley Bottle Club of course and is the editor of, *The Spouter*, newsletter for the Saratoga-type Bottle Collectors Association and wrote this article for the February 2020 issue. What a great article and story, good job Jeff!

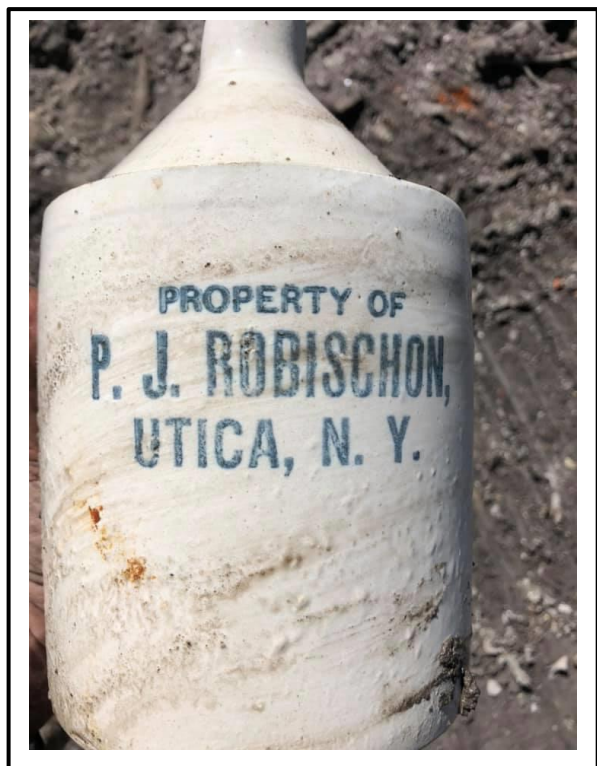
## Unusual museums usually worth a look

### NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM - BALLSTON SPA, NY

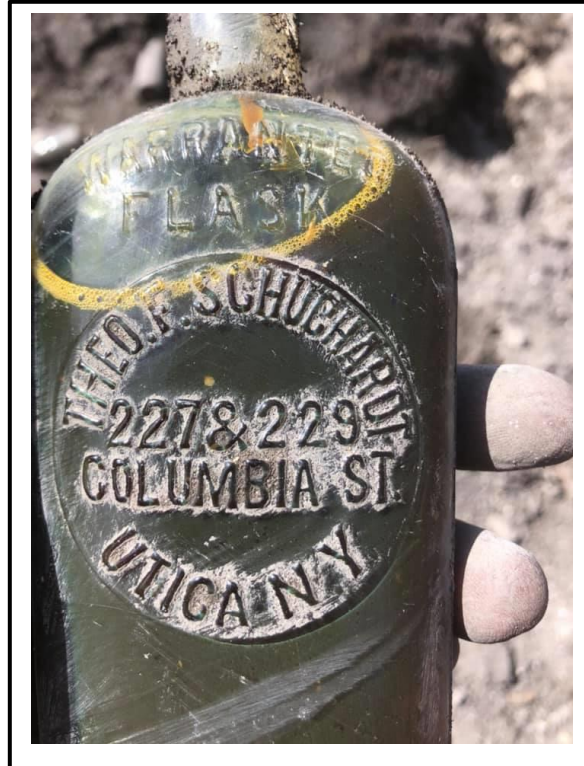
#### Three floors filled with thousands of bottles

Get a new appreciation for the art of bottle-making when you visit the National Bottle Museum, at 76 Milton Ave., in Ballston Spa. The museum is chock full of more than 2,000 rare and historic bottles of many type, sizes, shapes, texture and colors (look for the onion-shaped bottles and uranium glass) and some of the products that came packaged in these bottles (like Howe's Arabian Tonic Blood Purifier). Each bottle tells a story and there are several permanent collections to peruse. Ballston Spa was once famous for its natural mineral springs. The curative water was shipped in glass bottles around the world and in the 19th Century, several bottle makers formed in this area, making this an ideal spot to house a bottle museum. Visitors receive guided tours of the exhibits. A recent addition to the displays is an area entirely devoted to pharmacopeia and a vintage pharmacy book display with information dating back to the early 1900's. For information, visit [nationalbottlemuseum.org](http://nationalbottlemuseum.org).

The above article recently appeared in the *Utica O. D.* newspaper in Utica, NY. It just happens to tie-in with the articles on the prior three pages. Our local *Utica O. D.* is a great newspaper.



Out of an old Utica privy! A very nice, scarce P. J. Robischon Utica pottery whiskey jug dug by new member Scott Hastings.



A very scarce aqua pint Theo F. Schuchardt, Utica, NY whiskey flask dug by new member Scott Hastings.



## AMELIA R. WEEDEN

March  
1942



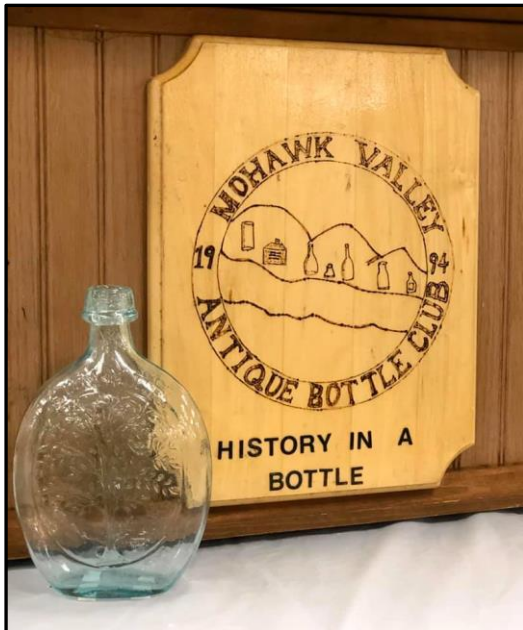
May 2  
2020



It is with deep sadness we report the passing of beloved club member Amelia Weeden of Camden, NY on May 2, 2020. Amelia and her husband Dan are charter members of our bottle club which started in 1994. Club members have fond memories of Amelia from the 26 years we have known her. Amelia always had a pleasant personality and a friendly smile on her face.

Amelia is survived by her husband Dan, their four children, Rodney, Annette, Audrey and Angi and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her twin sister Amalia, another sister Elsie and brother George.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dan and his family. Amelia is gone, but not forgotten.



*Tom Andriach Photo*

Keep selling our raffle tickets. We will have a drawing for our mint winter/summer historical flask sometime this fall.

## WHAT BOTTLE? THIS IS OUR HISTORY

Sauquoit Valley Dairy milk bottles with an embossed Indian Chief are a favorite with area collectors. Some other Sauquoit Valley Dairy milk bottles have a cow's head embossed on them. What other Utica dairy milk bottle has a cow's head embossed on them??

The answer will appear in the next newsletter.







## PROGRAMS



**ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.  
MORE INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER.  
FOR NOW STAY SAFE AND WELL! BEFORE ATTENDING  
ANY EVENTS CHECK TO SEE IF THEY HAVE BEEN CANCELED**



## BOTTLE SHOWS



**June 7 (Sunday) IS CANCELED**

**BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK**

**The 41st Annual Saratoga Bottle Show**, Saratoga County Fairgrounds, 162 Prospect St, Ballston Spa, New York

**July 11 (Saturday)**

**RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND – The Little Rhody Bottle Club Tailgate Swap Meet**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Free set-up for all who wish to attend. Free coffee, donuts, and pizza for participants. Bring your own tables! Show Address: Jules Antique Center, 320 Kingstown Road, Richmond, Rhode Island (3 miles East of Route #95 on Route #138), Contact Info: William Rose 508.880.4929.

**July 30 – August 3 (Thursday – Sunday) IS CANCELED**

**RENO, NEVADA**

**Federation of Historical Bottle Collector's National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo**, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, Information: Richard Siri ([rtsiri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtsiri@sbcglobal.net)) or Ferdinand Meyer V ([fmeyer@fmgdesign.com](mailto:fmeyer@fmgdesign.com)), **Mini-Contract**, **FOHBC National Convention**

**September 20 (Sunday)**

**CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK**

**The Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association's 22nd Annual Show & Sale**. PPvt. Leonard Post Jr. VFW, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, New York 14225. General Admission \$4: Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Contact chairman Joe Guerra, 29 Nina Terrace, West Seneca, New York 14224, 716.207.9948 or [jguerra3@roadrunner.com](mailto:jguerra3@roadrunner.com), or [www.gbbca.org](http://www.gbbca.org).

**October 3 (Saturday)**

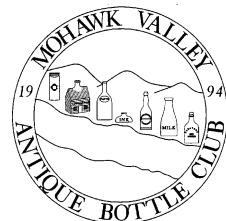
**MANSFIELD, OHIO**

**The 42nd Mansfield Antique Bottle Show**, Hosted by the **Ohio Bottle Club**, at the Richland County Fairgrounds, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Early admission, October 2, 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Info: Matt Lacy at 440.228.1873 or email [info@antiquebottlesales.com](mailto:info@antiquebottlesales.com) or Louis Fifer at 330.635.1964, [fiferlouis@yahoo.com](mailto:fiferlouis@yahoo.com),



**Join Now!**  
**You can become a "2020" member of the  
Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club  
for just \$10.00**

**Visit our website: [www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com](http://www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com)**





**Newsletter Editor**  
**Jon Landers**  
**8646 Aitken Avenue**  
**Whitesboro, NY 13492**  
**Phone (315) 864-3541**  
**Email: sj57831810@roadrunner.com**

Address Service Requested

Due to the Precautionary Shutdowns  
Our June 8th Meeting - Picnic is  
**CANCELED**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
*FIRST CLASS MAIL*  
\*\*\*\*\*

God Bless Our Essential Workers

Visit our website: [mohawkvalleybottleclub.com](http://mohawkvalleybottleclub.com)

**PRESIDENT**

Jim Bender  
P. O. box 162  
Sprakers, NY 12166  
(518) 673-8833  
Jim1@Frontiernet.net

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Fred DeCarlo  
11 Shelly Place  
Utica, NY 13502  
(315) 725-7577  
Email: fdecarlo117@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**

Debra Rehm  
5182 Westmoreland Road  
Whitesboro, N. Y. 13492  
(315) 736-4705  
longale@roadrunner.com

**TREASURER**

Peter Bleiberg  
7 White Pine Road  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
(315) 735-5430  
Email: PMBleiberg@aol.com



**MOHAWK VALLEY** Mail To: Peter Bleiberg  
**ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB** Treasurer MVABC  
Membership Application 7 White Pine Road  
New Hartford, NY 13413

Individual Membership \$10.00 Family Membership \$10.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

May we email you our newsletter in color? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to: MVABC

As a member you will receive the Club's monthly newsletter. **WELCOME!**